

**From:** Mason, Richard  
**To:** 'Microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'  
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**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement Comment

It is my understanding that as part of the settlement of price gouging in their class action lawsuit, Microsoft has offered to donate computer hardware, software and support to school districts. If it is their intention to donate systems that run Windows operating systems, it sounds to me like they have found a novel way to grow their monopoly and further strengthen their share at the expense of the U.S. Judicial system and the American people. I wish to voice my strong opposition to any such agreement. The court has already found, in another related case, that Windows is an illegal monopoly and now Microsoft may be presented with the opportunity to further indoctrinate our children into dependence upon Windows products and services - in the name of justice. In my opinion this is akin to letting Colombian drug cartels settle guilty verdicts by providing free cocaine to U.S. junkies. Microsoft should not be allowed to profit from a guilty verdict.

May I suggest that any settlement that involves such a donation should stipulate that all of the hardware, software and support be entirely comprised of non-Microsoft products and/or services. To put it more plainly, if Microsoft wants to settle by donating computers, they need to donate only Apple Macintosh, Linux or other high quality non-Windows systems and all of the support should be provided by firms unaffiliated with Microsoft.

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